

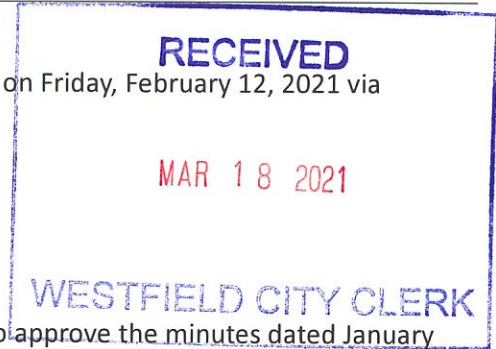
REGULAR MEETING OF WESTFIELD POLICE COMMISSION

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

February 12, 2021

The Westfield Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm on Friday, February 12, 2021 via remote participation and broadcast on Channel 15.

Roll Call: Leonard Osowski – Present
Felix Otero – Present
Richard Sypek – Present



Approval and Release of Minutes: Commissioner Sypek made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 12, 2021. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes

Open Participation: Due to the emergency order by Governor Baker’s office regarding Covid-19, the public participation portion of the meeting will not be held.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A.) Interview three candidates and promote to the position of fully-time patrolman – effective start date: pending certification of civil service list: Commissioner Osowski said that the candidates have the option to be in the meeting while the others are interviewed, however historically only the candidate being interviewed is present. All candidates agreed that they would rather only the candidate being interviewed to be present.

Reserve Officer Sean Kelly: Commissioner Osowski asked Reserve Officer Sean Kelly what has changed in regards to his life and career ambitions since the last time he was interviewed by the commission. Sean said his career ambitions have not changed. He said he has been getting back into physical fitness and is getting ready to pass the cooper’s test and move on within the police department. Commissioner Sypek asked Sean to explain his past injury to the commission. Sean said he was originally diagnosed with Plantar Fasciitis, but that cleared up on its own. He then began having an issue where his knee would swell up when he would run. He thinks that was more of an over-use issue and he is now training smarter. Commissioner Sypek asked where the injury stands now. Sean said he has good and bad days, but it is nothing he can’t push through. He does feel he could easily pass the cooper’s test if he were to take it right now.

Reserve Officer Matthew Tsatsos: Commissioner Osowski asked Reserve Officer Matthew Tsatsos what has changed in regards to his life and career ambitions since the last time he was interviewed by the commission. Matthew said he was able to complete his field training with the department. He said on his last day of training, he had his first arrest. The subject he arrested ended up to be covid positive and Matthew and his entire family then contracted it. He hasn’t been able to work on his own yet due to that. Commissioner Osowski asked Matthew how he is feeling now. Matthew said his symptoms were mild, but the fatigue has lasted a long time. He said he has never felt anything like that before.

Commissioner Sypek asked Matthew how much field training he was able to complete and how he feels about it. Matthew said he was able to complete his field training and he feels that it went pretty well. He said his training officer, Officer Irujo, did a good job and taught him well. Commissioner Sypek said that the last time Matthew was before the commission, he said he needed more time before becoming a full time police officer. He asked Matthew how he feels about it now. Matthew said he would like to work on his own first, if possible. He does think it is a good career and he would be ready to go if appointed him tonight. Commissioner Sypek asked Matthew if he has any reservations about that. Matthew said he would prefer to work on his own first but it is tough right now due to Covid 19. He said after field training a reserve officer will typically work shifts by themselves doing patrol. He would like the opportunity to do that. Commissioner Sypek asked Matthew if he would like to work on his own first before the commission appoints him. Matthew said he would like to do that. He said that is not an easy answer, but he hasn't been able to work since he has gotten sick.

Reserve Officer Matthew Reynolds: Commissioner Osowski asked Reserve Officer Matthew Reynolds what has changed in regards to his life and career ambitions since the last time he was interviewed by the commission. Matthew said right after his last interview before the commission, he had the opportunity to attend the full time police academy and was sponsored through the military. He said it took a lot of time to complete and unfortunately, he had to resign from his job to complete the academy. He has now graduated from the academy and has been also trying to progress in his degree at Westfield State University. He is majoring in criminal justice and has 3 semesters left. He has also been doing his field training with the police department. Commissioner Sypek asked Matthew if he were to be appointed, would he continue to pursue his degree. Matthew said he would. Commissioner Otero asked Matthew what career he resigned from in order to attend the academy. Matthew said he was a full time military police officer in the air force at Barnes Air National Guard. He had to give up his full time position to attend the academy.

Chief Valliere said that he has known all 3 candidates for a decent amount of time. He knows Sean Kelly has had a number of cooper's test administered to him by Captain McCabe which he was unable to pass due to his injury. Chief Valliere said he is not completely sure that Sean's injury is resolved enough for him to pass the test. That would have to come first before he is appointed. Chief Valliere said that he gets a sense that Matthew Tsatsos is still unsure if being a full time police officer is for him. Chief Valliere did hear that Matthew did a great job with his field training. Lastly, Chief Valliere said he sees nothing but commitment when someone quits their full time job to attend the academy. This is what Matthew Reynolds has done. He has been admirable throughout his field training as well. He said Matthew Reynolds would be his choice.

Captain McCabe said he believes Chief Valliere summed it up perfectly. He thinks Matthew Reynolds would be the best choice. The other 2 candidates have not yet attended the academy and it is very difficult to get candidates into the academy right now.

Captain Pitoniak said he agrees with both Chief Valliere and Captain McCabe. He thinks Matthew Reynolds would be the best candidate. He said the department will have more openings shortly so the other candidates will have the opportunity again very soon.

Commissioner Osowski said he agrees with the chief and captains. He said he thinks Matthew Reynolds is the best choice for the full time position. Commissioner Otero said he agrees. Matthew Reynolds is his choice as well. Commissioner Sypek said he would like to see all 3 candidates appointed, but right now Matthew Reynolds has already attended the academy and can start as a full time patrolman immediately. He would like to see Matthew Tsatsos work some more shifts independently before the

commission appoints him as a full time police officer and he would like to see Sean Kelly pass the cooper's test before being appointed.

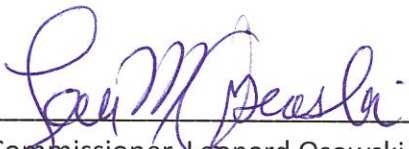
Commissioner Sypek made a motion to appoint Reserve Officer Matthew Reynolds to the position of full-time police officer for the City of Westfield. Commissioner Otero seconded that motion.

Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes

Announcement of Next Regular Meeting: The next meeting of the Westfield Police Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn: At 5:20 pm Commissioner Otero made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sypek seconded that motion.

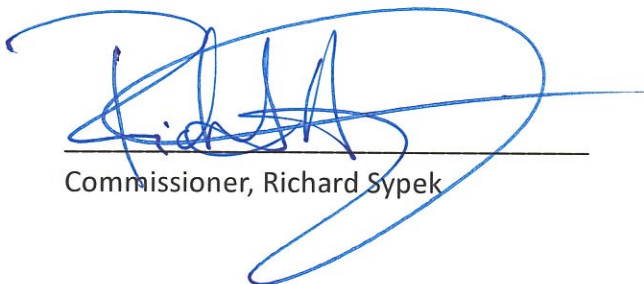
Leonard Osowski – Yes – Felix Otero – Yes - Richard Sypek - Yes



Commissioner, Leonard Osowski



Commissioner, Felix Otero



Commissioner, Richard Sypek

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ON

3/9/21